

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim:

18. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a polymeric absorbent useful for gelling organic liquids consisting essentially of:

a) mixing one or more monomers comprising multi-functional monomers, wherein the monomer contains a hydrophobic group and hydrophilic groups in a molar ratio of hydrophobic to hydrophilic groups of 1.0:0.1, with a cross linking agent and a free radical initiator;

b) subjecting the mixture to polymerization;

c) removing the polymer;

d) crushing the polymer to obtain a polymer powder;

e) washing with a solvent;

f) drying the polymer to remove unreacted monomers;

and

swelling the polymer in an alcohol to obtain the

polymeric absorbant.

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of April 8, 2002 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-44 are pending in the application. Claims 18-44 were rejected.

Claim 18 has been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in general throughout the specification. More specifically, support for Claims 18 can be found on page 4, line 19 to page 5, line 2 and Example 3 on page 10 of the specification.